

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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S E C R E T USNATO 1592

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: WG PAPER ON U.S. AIR MANPOWER PROPOSALS

REF: A. USNATO 1333 DTG 101918Z MAR 75

B. USNATO 1001 DTG 241620Z FEB 75

C. USNATO 932 DTG 201045Z FEB 75

D. STATE 22970

1. PROMPTED BY EXTENSIVE UK CONTRIBUTIONS AND REVISIONS, WG HAS CONTINUED REDRAFTING PAPER ON U.S. AIR MANPOWER PROPOSALS. STAFF GROUP HAS AGAIN CIRCULATED NEW DRAFT, INCORPORATING SUGGESTIONS AT MARCH 18 WG MEETING.

2. PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RECENT WG CONSIDERATION F OF PAPER:

A. FRG REP PRESSED FOR INCLUSION OF SENTENCE SAYING SOME MEMBERS BELIEVED U.S. PROPOSAL MIGHT ESTABLISH PRECEDENT FOR SECRET

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COMPULSORY AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS IN PHASE II. WG DID NOT ACCEPT FRG SUGGESTION BUT AGREED TO LEAVE OUT OF PAPER ANY JUDGMENT REGARDING PRECEDENT FOR PHASE II.

B. TURKISH REP HAS AFFIRMED HIS AUTHORITIES INTEREST IN QUESTIONS REGARDING IMPACT OF AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS ON FLANKS (REF C). HOWEVER, IN ABSENCE OF U.S. COMMENT ON THESE QUESTIONS, TURKISH REP BELIEVES HE CAN ACCEPT PAPER PROVIDED IT INCLUDES CAVEAT ON NEED TO EXAMINE FLANK ISSUES IF DECISION SHOULD LATER BE MADE TO TAKE AIR MANPOWER CUTS AT 15 PERCENT LEVEL INVOLVING RELOCATION OF TACTICAL AIRLIFT AND REDUCTION IN MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT.

C. UK REP HAS SUBMITTED EXTENSIVE ANALYSIS OF NUMERICAL EFFECTS OF AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS FOR PHASE II, INCLUDING THE IMPLICATIONS FOR BOTH SIDES OF A COMBINED GROUND/AIR COMMON CEILING WITH NO AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS IN PHASE 2: THE IMPLICATIONS FOR BOTH SIDES OF OPTIONAL AIR REDUCTIONS IN PHASE 2, AS WELL AS IN PHASE 1; THE IMPLICATIONS IN PHASE 2 OF DEFINED MINIMUM GROUND MANPOWER REDUCTIONS. WHILE ANALYSIS DEALS WITH HYPOTHETICAL OPTIONS AND DRAWS FEW CONCLUSIONS APPARENT UK PURPOSE IS TO DEVELOP IDEA THAT THERE COULD BE SOME ADVANTAGES TO ALLIES IN OPTIONAL PHASE II AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS PROVIDED BOTH SIDES WERE REQUIRED TO TAKE

A MINIMAL PERCENTAGE (E.G. 85 PERCENT, 90 PERCENT, 95 PERCENT) OF THEIR TOTAL PHASE II REDUCTIONS IN GROUND MANPOWER. NIF

D. ALL REPS HAVE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR U.S. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ANALYSIS OF HOW THE SOVIETS MIGHT TAKE AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS (PARA 2, REF C). SHAPE AND UK REPS SAID THEIR WON EVALUATIONS GENERALLY AGREED WITH THAT OF U.S. FRG HAS CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN THAT FURTHER STUDY OF THIS QUESTION MAY BE REQUIRED AND THAT BONN MAY PROVIDE SOME INPUT ON THIS ISSUE. HOWEVER, HE HAS BACKED AWAY FROM A PROPOSAL HE EARLIER PUT FORWARD THAT THERE WAS A NEED AS WELL TO STUDY HOW NSWP FORCES MIGHT TAKE AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS.

E. IN ABSENCE OF FURTHER U.S. COMMENT ON SERVICE SUB-CEILINGS, STAFF GROUP HAS DEVELOPED SECTION ON THIS QUESTION
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RECALLING EARLIER WG FINDING THAT APPROACHES SPECIFYING EITHER A SUB-CEILING ON AIR AND GROUND MANPOWER OR ON GROUND MANPOWER ALONE COULD BE ADOPTED WITHOUT ADVERSE MILITARY EFFECTS. THIS SECTION THEN DESCRIBES U.S. PREFERENCE FOR A SOLUTION WHICH SHOULD ALLOW SCOPE, FOR BOTH SIDES, TO MAKE LIMITED TRANSFERS BETWEEN GROUND AND AIR MANPOWER STRENGTHS WITHIN A COMBINED GROUND/AIR COMMON CEILING DEFINED IN NUMERICAL TERMS. IT CONCLUDES WITH COMMENT THAT "PROVIDED THAT THE FOCUS ON APPROXIMATE PARITY OF GROUND FORCES WOULD BE MAINTAINED A FIXED COMBINED GROUND/AIR COMMON CEILING WITH LIMITED FLEXIBILITY TO TRANSFER BETWEEN GROUND AND AIR FORCES WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH ALLIED OBJECTIVES. THE EXTENT OF FLEXIBILITY ALLOWED WOULD DEPEND TO A LARGE EXTENT ON THE NATURE AND MODALITIES OF THE REDUCTIONS."

F. WITH ASSISTANCE OF ACTING CHAIRMAN, US REP HAS
ATTEMPTED TO GUIDE PAPER TOWARD GENERAL AND UNEXCEPTIONAL
COVERAGE OF OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS RAISED IN WG-IN TERMS WHICH
WOULD NOT REQUIRE FURTHER WASHINGTON GUIDANCE ON THESE POINTS.
U.S. REP HAS ALSO QUESTIONED NEED FOR NUMEROUS UK ADDITIONS TO
PAPER WHICH HAS NOW GROWN TO 77 PARAGRAPHS INCLUDING FINDINGS
AND THREEE ANNEXES.

3. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF ITS LENGTH, WE WILL DELAY TRANSMITTING
TEXT UNTIL WE CAN ASSESS, AFTER NEXT WG MEETING ON APRIL 1,
WHETHER DRAFT IS NEARING FINAL TEXT.
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